

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 15, 2007 has been read and carefully considered and the present amendment submitted in order to better define the invention over the references of record.

In that Office Action, initially the drawings were objected to based on the presence of blank boxes and therefore legends have been added to the larger boxes for Figures 1 and 4, submitted herewith as "Replacement Sheets". It is, however, submitted that the boxes are well identified in the specification and adding descriptions to all of the boxes, considering the size of the boxes, could create confusion rather than provide clarification.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 10-11 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanchez-Revuelta et al, U.S. Patent 5,808,906. Claims 17-19, 22, 27, 29, 31, 34, 36-37, 40-41 and 43-44 were rejected under 35 U.S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanchez-Revuelta et al in view of Sakoh et al, U.S. Patent 6,704,593.

Claims 5, 8-9, 12-13, 20-21, 23-26, 28, 30, 32-33, 35, 38-39 and 42 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in the application.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1, the only independent claim, to include a further limitation that further distinguishes the claims over the Sanchez-Revuelta and Sakoh references, taken singly or in combination.

That added limitation relates to the function of a first transforming means that converts “a circular function of the front image into a rectangular portion to obtain a transformed front image”.

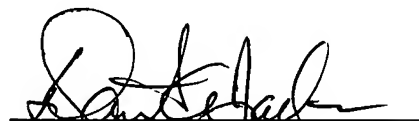
As stated in Paragraph [0005], “The main step of the process is converting a circular portion of an image into a rectangular image by polar transformation”. See, also the last sentence of the abstract.

It is submitted that neither the Sanchez-Revuelta et al nor the Sakoh et al disclose the use of the conversion of a circular portion of an image into a rectangular image and that the technique is considered very important in the present invention. In particular, the Sanchez-Revuelta reference relates to the identification of wheels of a moving railway car by the use of lasers and makes the identification by determining the profile of each wheel by the use of two lasers or one laser and a mirror or by determining the diameter of the wheel through the use of a single laser. In either case, it is submitted that the means of determining the profile or diameter by lasers simply does not use nor need to use the conversion of a circular portion of the image into a rectangular image and which has been disclosed in the present application as a “main step” in the inventive system.

As such, there would be no need for such a conversion with the laser based system of Sanchez-Revuelta and therefore no suggestion that one would combine any further reference to add an unneeded step to the Sanchez-Revuelta system and there is no such step in the Sakoh reference.

As such it is believed that the claims, as now amended, are patentable over the cited references and an allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


DAVID A. JACKSON
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,742

KLAUBER & JACKSON
411 Hackensack Avenue
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 487-5800